

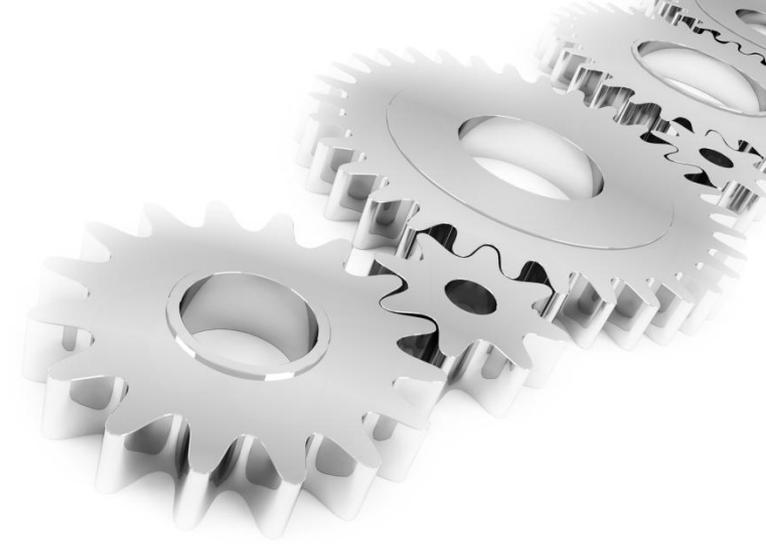
# **Statistical Community of Practice and Engagement (SCOPE)**

The Horizontal Approach  
to  
Open Government  
through

**Collaboration, Data Sharing and IT Consolidation**

CENDI Conference, September 8, 2011

# SCOPE VISION



*Provide a collaborative community for statistical agencies to produce relevant, accurate, timely, cost-effective data and insightful research disseminated through shared state-of-the-art best practices to support data-driven decisions throughout the Nation.*



# Laws and Directives

- Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (within E-Gov Act)
- Supports the March 9, 2009, Scientific Integrity Presidential Memorandum, and the December 8, 2009, Open Government Directive



**A Awareness of the need for change:**

- Bigger Stovepipes: Vertical IT consolidation limits statistical agencies' ability to horizontally share statistical data within legal constraints
- Redundancies and inefficiencies exist in investments of dollars and staff time in research, development and ongoing operations

**D Desire to participate and support the change:**

Chief Statistician of US (Katherine Wallman), 70% of Federal Principal Statistical agencies; OMB/CIO (Vivek Kundra); OSTP/CTO (Aneesh Chopra)

**K Knowledge on how to change:**

- SCOP workgroups comprised of statisticians and IT staff
- Expertise to enhance quality of data submitted to Data.gov

**A Ability to implement required skills and behaviors:**

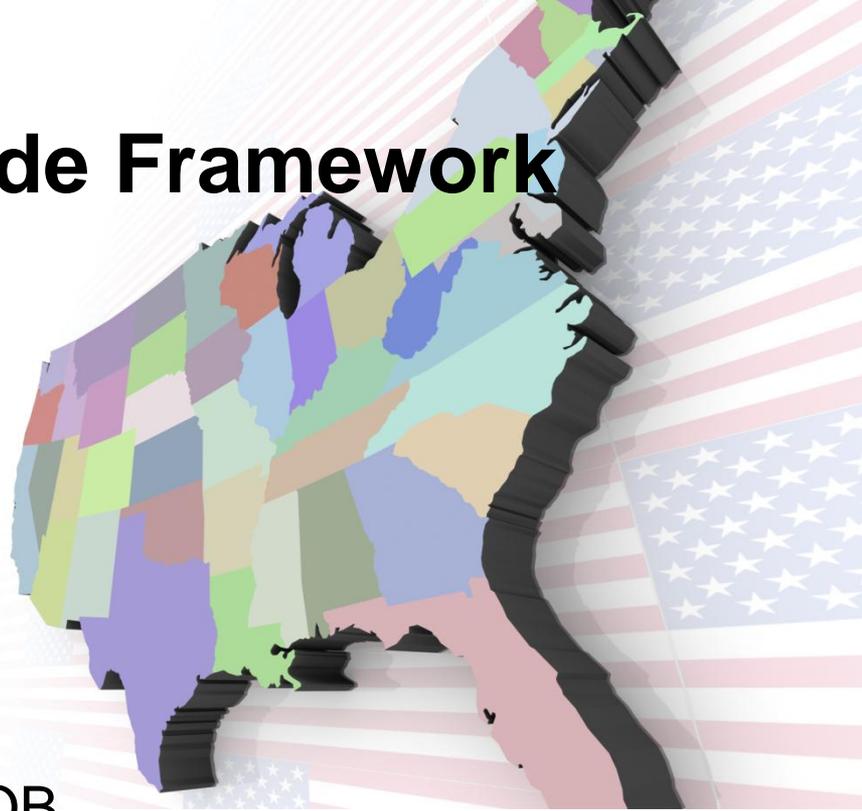
Rapid and Agile contingent on freeing up resources via Federal CIO waiver of vertical IT consolidation to allow for horizontal integration across statistical agencies

**R Reinforcement to sustain the change:**

\$2 million in President's FY11 budget to support PMO at ERS

# SCOPE: Government-wide Framework

- Integrate IT assets, data and operational tools across Federal statistical agencies
- Governed by OMB/OIRA/ICSP, Chief Statistician of the US
- Voluntary membership using BF&ELOB model
- ICSP-approved projects led by volunteer agencies
  - Staff participation from interested volunteer agencies
  - Funded by agencies' contributions (MOU/ Economy Act), direct appropriation, fee for service (use of software), possible public/private partnerships (free hosting)
  - Managed by PMO



# SCOPE Goals = OMB Goals

- ICSP drafted Statistical System 2.0 vision in 2009
- Goals of increased collaboration, data sharing, horizontal IT consolidation, leveraging of best practices, sharing analytical software tools & econometric models, aggregated software procurements to gain volume discounts
- SCOPE provides the infrastructure to effect successful attainment of E-Gov and ICSP goals, e.g., collaboration, shared best practices & data
- Results in more robust statistical system generating higher quality and quantity of data for Data.gov

# Efficiencies of Scale Through Sharing

- Reduce number of agencies re-creating similar software tools, analytical models, collecting similar data (e.g., streamline Paperwork Reduction Act Information Collection Request approval process)
- Improve security through collaboration among agency security experts, implementing best practices
- Decrease procurement costs through aggregation, open source
- Support Data.gov through standardized metadata models, concept definitions, quality control procedures, data visualization
- Develop models for joint data access to survey microdata among agencies whose individual statutes permit such access and who choose to participate

# Success Abroad



- Almost all other countries have a single statistical agency, achieving economies of scale
- SCOPE offers a collaborative approach within a distributed system, attaining efficiencies and economies of scale without severing agencies' symbiotic subject matter-based relationships with their parent departments

# SCOPE Model

## Early Success: *Let's Move*



- Collaboration, data sharing among ERS, NCHS, Census created the Food Atlas App
  - Primary research tool in support of First Lady's *Let's Move* childhood obesity initiative
  - GIS application which cross-references data on over 100 variables, e.g., occurrences of diabetes, local food availability, location of fast food vs. grocery vs. farmer's markets, type transportation available
  - Began in December '09, unveiled during blizzard in February, 2010 at Mrs. Obama's kick-off briefing on *Let's Move*

# Summary



**Inter-agency collaboration and cooperation under SCOPE will benefit**

**the data user community through:**

- **Increased efficiency of statistical agency operations, resources**
- **Enhanced adoption of best practices**
- **Harmonization of definitions, metadata, dissemination and data visualization mechanisms**
- **While continuing to protect confidential data**

***SCOPE provides an integrated means of identifying mutual challenges and opportunities, and then jointly developing and disseminating practical and effective solutions.***